

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00329 091604Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OFA-01 INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00

DLOS-04 SAL-01 EB-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00

TRSE-00 /075 W

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O 091531Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8558

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIETS REQUEST ASSISTANCE FOR GROUNDED FISHING TRAWLER

1. COUNSELOR, USA DIVISION, MFA, CHETVERIKOV AFTERNOON JANUARY 9 URGENTLY REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE WITH REGARD TO SOVIET VESSEL SOMARGO, WHICH HAS BEEN GROUNDED IN ALASKAN WATERS ON KAYAK ISLAND SINCE JANUARY 1. OTHER SOVIET VESSELS IN AREA, ACCORDING TO CHETVERIKOV, HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST SOMARGO AND COAST GUARD HAS BEEN NOTIFIED. SOVIETS HAVE ALSO REPORTEDLY CONTACTED U.S. PRIVATE SALVAGING FIRM AND HAVE PURCHASED NECESSARY SPECIAL CABLE TO FACILITATE SALVAGE OPERATION.

2. WHILE THERE WERE NO DIFFICULTIES AT FIRST WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, CHETVERIKOV CONTINUED, QUESTION OF SOVIET INFRINGEMENT ON U.S. TERRITORIAL WATERS HAS RECENTLY BEEN RAISED AND OTHER SOVIET VESSELS HAVE EVIDENTLY BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE THE SCENE. CHETVERIKOV SAID LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBLE FINE OF SOVIET VESSELS FOR ENCROACHMENT OF U.S. TERRITORIAL WATERS.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00329 091604Z

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, CHETVERIKOV MADE FOLLOWING TWO SPECIFIC REQUESTS: (A) U.S.S. AUTHORITIES ARE REQUESTED TO ALLOW SOVIETS TO CONTINUE THEIR RESCUE OPERATIONS AND TO PERMIT OTHER SOVIET VESSELS IN THE AREA TO ASSIST. IN THIS REGARD, CHETVERIKOV CITED ARTICLE 14 OF U.S.-SOVIET CONSULAR CONVENTION WHICH CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE TO VESSELS AND CREWS IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. (B) U.S. AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO REQUESTED NOT TO PREVENT U.S. COMPANY ENGAGED BY SOVIETS FROM BRINGING SPECIAL CABLE TO SCENE.

4. CHETVERIKOV ADDED THAT TIDE ON JANUARY 16 WOULD BE FAVORABLE FOR RESCUE OF THIS SOVIET VESSEL AND SAID THAT EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER.

5. PLEASE ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE AS TO RESPONSE WE SHOULD MAKE TO SOVIETS ON THIS.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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